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LEMINAKAN, AN IMPORTANT
TEXTILE AND TRANSPORT CENTER

Ye. A. Trofimovskaya

Despite its southern location, Leninakan has a January mean temperature closer to Moscow than to cities like Istanbul and Rome, which are at the same latitude, because of its height and the proximity of the surrounding mountain ranges.

Extensive areas of grain and industrial crops have been developed near Leninakan. In this vicinity sugar beets are being raised in Armenia for the first time.

Multicolored tuff, pumice, marble, granite, diatomite, tripolite, and other building materials as well as mineral dyes (ocher and colcothar) are all found here. Deposits of trachyte, Kieselguhr, volcanic sand and ashes, basalt and shale are also located near Leninakan. Small coal fields (Dzhedzhurskiy and Dzhermanitskiy) are near the city.

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Leninakan is a major transport center. The nature of the location of the mountain ranges and river systems as well as the former trade and military routes have resulted in the fact that Armenia's principal rail and motor roads pass through the border city of Leninakan.

The Tbilisi-Yerevan Trunk Line Railroad first runs south through the Debeda-Chay River valley and then veers west, bypassing the Pambak mountain range and coming out into Leninakan. From Leninakan it bypasses the Aragats volcanic massif and runs along the Araksinsk graben, entering Yerevan from the southeast. Another rail line runs southward from Leninakan to Kars in Turkey. A branch line connects Leninakan with the big tuff center of Artik and the pumice center of Makhmarzhug, both of which have been developed since the revolution.

A network of highways radiates in every direction from Leninakan to all regions of the republic and to neighboring Georgia. They guarantee communications with the agricultural and livestock regions of the upper Western Arpa-Chay and the Loriyskiy Steppe, with the regions producing construction materials and fuel, and with the southern fruit and cotton growing regions.

Leninakan specializes in light industry, especially textiles. Food industries, meat in particular, and the construction-materials industry are also important. A large trained reserve of home craftsmen and artisans furnish workers for the city's industries.

The Leninakan Textile Combine, the largest in the Transcaucasus, operates textile-factory schools primarily to train refugees from Turkish Armenia. Many of these refugees now work in the knitted goods and sewing enterprises of the textile industry.

Various plants have been built in Leninakan to process the raw materials of the surrounding countryside. Alcohol plants have already been built to process the sugar beets now being grown. Sugar refineries are now being built. Meat combines, breweries, and other enterprises of the food industry process the local agricultural products. The construction-materials industry uses local tuff, pumice, tripolite, limestone, etc.

In 1940, the textile combine was unable to operate at full capacity because of power shortages. Now the Shirak Power Plant is constantly increasing its output, and is supplying all the power needed. The Sevano-Zanginsk waterfalls are now being utilized by the interconnected hydroelectric stations of Armenia, and by the Leninakan substation.

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